

DATE: February 20, 1998

TO: Division of Water Supply Engineering Technical Staff

THROUGH: E.H. Bartsch, P.E., Director
Office of Water Programs

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FROM: M. C. Anderson, Technology Transfer Director
Office of Water Programs

SUBJECT: Water — Procedure — Sample Collection — Bacteriological

After conducting a literature review of bacteriological sampling procedures, I find no current references to a technique that we have incorporated over the years — flaming the end of the tap. The only reference to flaming says it used to be recommended, but now that practice is discouraged. Neither any EPA nor *Standard Methods* procedure includes flaming the tap. I assume that it has lost favor due to the fire hazard of an open flame around combustibles in the kitchen and construction of plumbing fixtures using nylon, plastics, and other nonmetallic materials. Flaming is no longer an accepted practice.

Since our procedures are published and appear on the Internet and followed outside of the Division of Water Supply Engineering, the above practice could be used by the unknowing lay person. Therefore, the next revision of our *A Guide to Bacteriological Sampling of Public Water Supplies* will delete all references of flaming the end of the sample tap. The only referenced sampling technique will be flushing for 3-5 pipe volumes or for a minimum of 2-3 minutes.

cc: 1 ea. E. H. Bartsch
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